

# **Large-Scale Transmission Planning Under Uncertainty: Generation Co-optimization & Economic Analysis**

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*(Sources: van der Weijde, Hobbs, **Energy Economics**, 2012; Munoz & Hobbs, IEEE PES Meeting, 2012, 2013)*



# I. Challenge of Hyperuncertainty: *What's a Transmission Planner to do?*

*Dramatic changes coming!*

## ■ Renewables

- How much?
- Where?
- What type?

## ■ Other generation

- Centralized?
- Distributed?

## ■ Demand

- New uses? (EVs)
- Controllability?

## ■ Policy





# The problem

## Planning

- Decisions can be postponed: *multi-stage*
- Uncertainties & variability: *stochastic*
- Bilevel: *response of generators & consumers to grid decisions*

## Important questions:

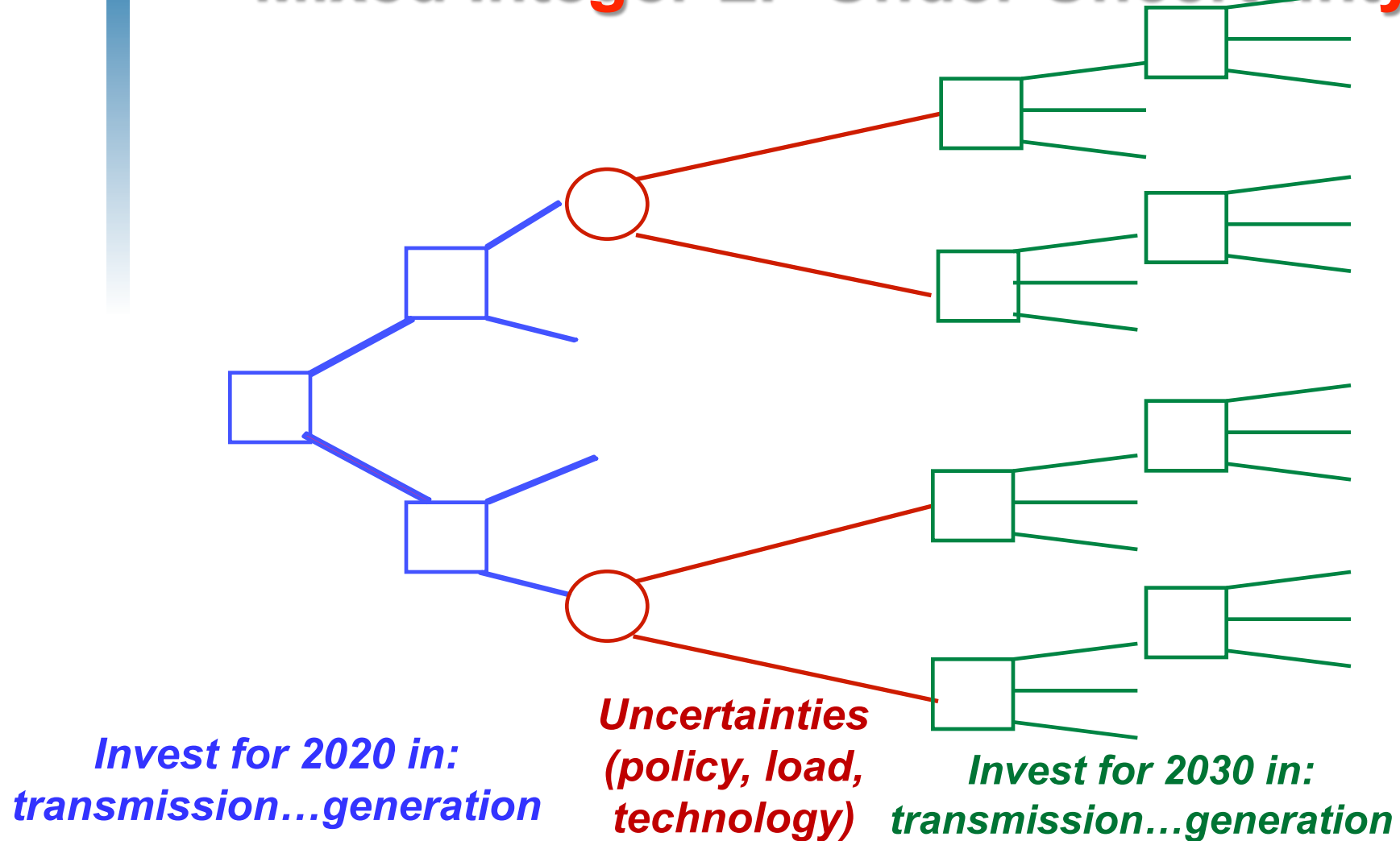
- Optimal strategy under uncertainty?
- Value of information & flexibility?
- Penalty for ignoring uncertainty?
- How gen investment responds to grid design?

## Deterministic planning can't answer

- Stochastic multilevel can!
- Considers all scenarios simultaneously



# Our Approach: Two-Stage Transmission Mixed Integer LP Under Uncertainty



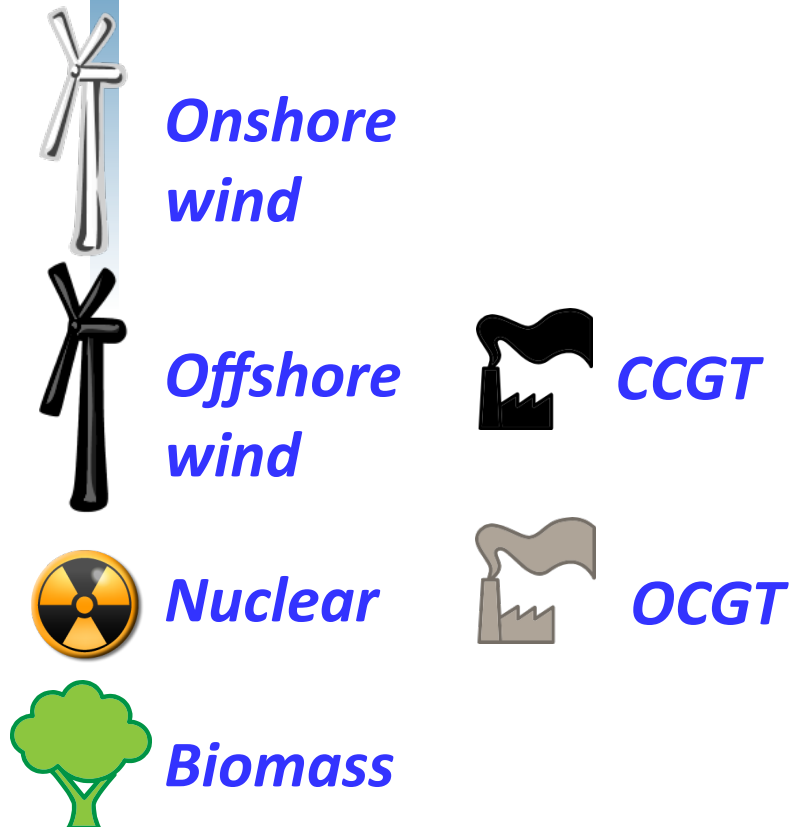
Cf. NXT/NETPLAN (used by WECC): accounts for variability, *not* uncertainty

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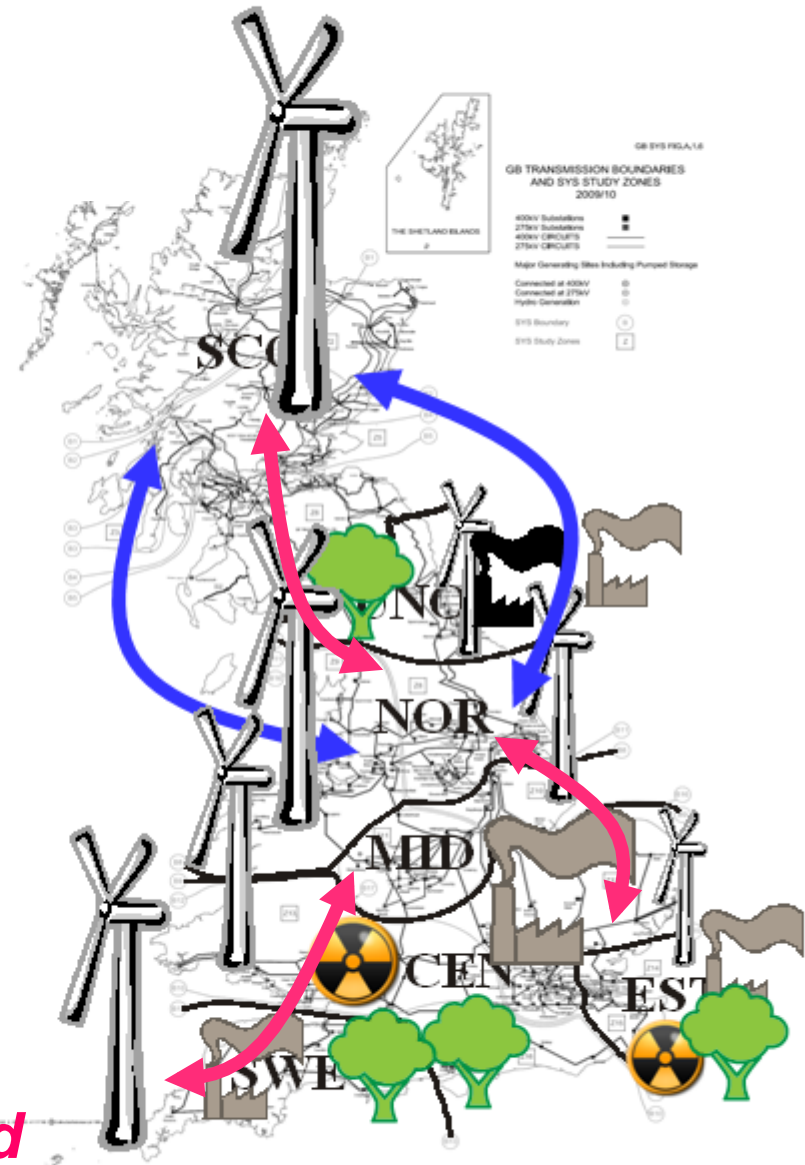




## II. UK: Best near-term grid investments in face of 6 econ/policy scenarios



*Uncertainty Means  
Optimal to Delay 3 Lines  
Recommended by National Grid*





# III. WECC 240-bus Test Case: MILP with $\sim 10^6$ - $10^7$ Variables

## WECC 240-bus system:

(Price & Goodin, 2011)

140 Generators

448 Transmission elements

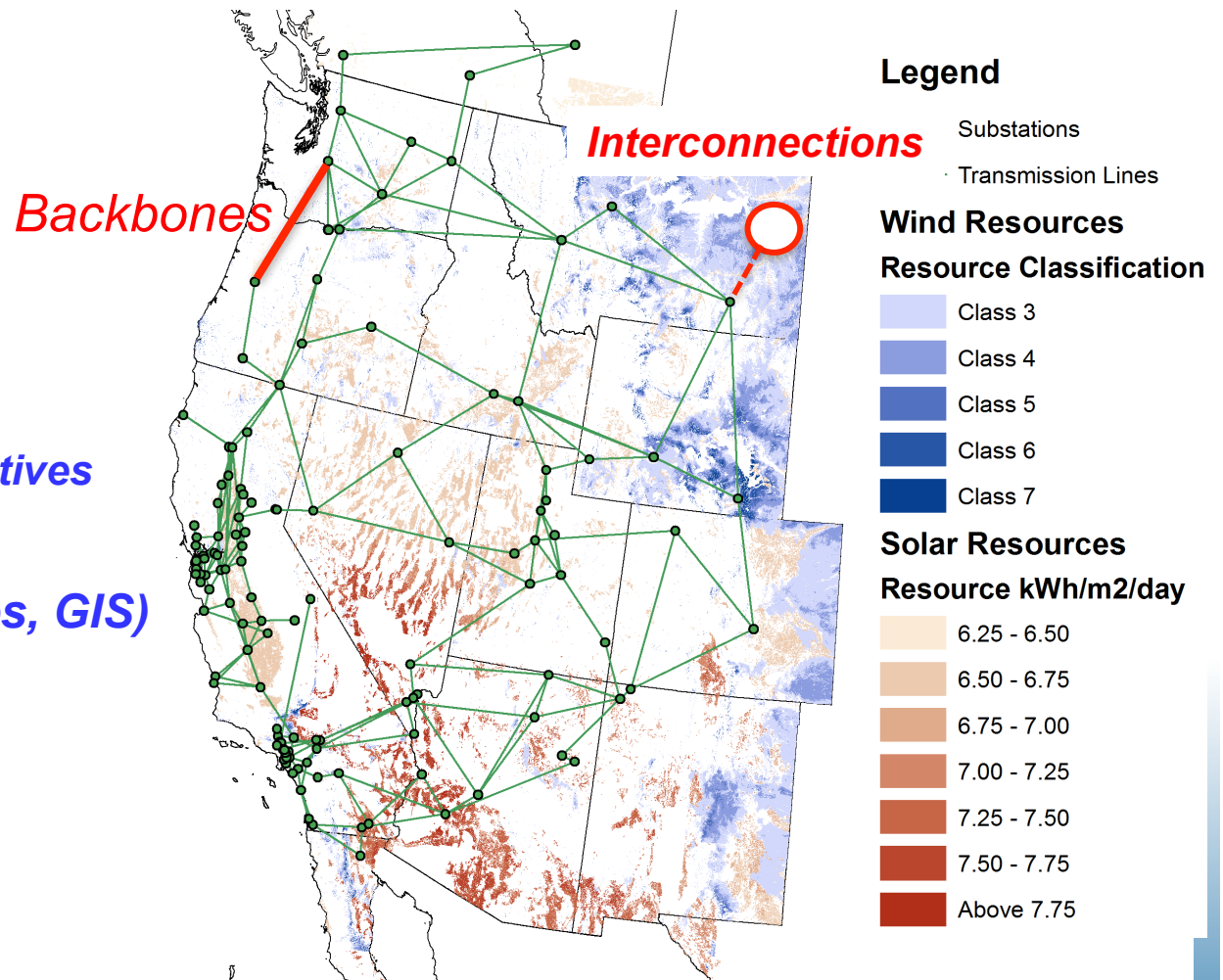
## Candidate Transmission Alternatives

## Renewables data (Time series, GIS)

(NREL, WREZ, RETI)

54 Wind profiles

29 Solar profiles



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(NREL, WREZ, RETI)



# Scenarios: WECC

Focus on environmental policy & fuel prices:

## *Differentiated State RPS*

- State RPS
- >75% from in-state resources
- Average fossil fuel prices

## *33% WECC-wide RPS*

- 33% WECC-wide RPS
- Efficient REC markets
- High fossil fuel prices

## *Carbon Cap & Trade*

- 17% below 2005 levels by 2020
- 45% below 2005 levels by 2030
- Low fossil fuel prices

## Experiments:

- Scenario Planning (Deterministic)
- **Stochastic Approach (All scenarios at once)**
- Heuristics:
  1. *Heuristic I: Build lines needed in all 3 scenarios*
  2. *Heuristic II: Build lines needed in “most” scenarios ( $\geq 2$ )*
  3. *Heuristic III: Build all lines built in any scenario*

} “Least-regrets” or  
“Multi-Value Projects”  
} “Congestion-free”



# Results: WECC

## First-Stage Transmission Investments: Backbones

Approach	B19	B37	B56	B68	B72	B73	B74	B92	B95	B125	B133	B136	B137	B143	B151	B157	B168	B169	B201	B202	B218	B222	B237	B238
D-Carbon				1					1	1	1		1	2								2	1	2
D-33% WECC		1			1	1	2		1								1	1	1		1	1	2	
D-State RPS	2	1	1					2		2		1								1		1		2

*Flexible plans are suboptimal in retrospect!*

Approach	First-Stage Transmission Investments [\$Bill]	Expected PW of G&T Costs [\$ Bill]
D- Carbon Sce.	4.1	728.2
D-33% WECC S	15.4	653.6
D-State RPS Sce.	11.3	667.0
Heuristic I	0.4	951.4
Heuristic II	6.3	679.1
Heuristic III	24.2	644.5
<b>Stochastic (All Scenarios)</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>636.2</b>

*Penalty for ignoring uncertainty:  
= 46.7 \$Bill.*